

MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL BIOLOGY TEACHER PATHWAY

Cuesta College

The Middle or High School Teacher Pathway will enhance your knowledge in Biology; educate and train you to become an effective teacher; provide real-world, hands on learning in the classroom with mentor teachers; equip you with the knowledge and skills to succeed in college and allow you to grow as a teacher and a professional.

Middle or High School Teachers (normally grades 7-12) are specialists in their subject matter and generally teach just one subject, Biology in your case, so a **Single Subject Credential** is required. The Single Subject Teaching Credential authorizes the holder to teach the specific subject(s) named on the credential in departmentalized classes, such as those in most middle schools and high schools.

Cuesta College students will follow this pathway to help them earn the Single Subject Credential in Biology and become a Middle or High School Teacher:

Pathway Steps

1. Complete: The [AS-T in Biology, Sample 2 Year Plan](#)
2. Satisfy the [basic skills requirement](#). There are many ways to meet the basic skills requirement, which include earning qualifying scores on the CBEST, CSU EAP/ELM/EPT, SAT, ACT, or AP Exams. If you take the [CBEST](#), do it right after you've completed transferable Biology and English.
3. Complete: [BS in Biology](#)
4. Verify Subject Matter Competence
 - a. May be met by completing a BS degree in Biology at a university that has a [Commission-Approved Subject Matter Prep Program](#)
 - b. Pass the California Subject Exam for Teachers (CSET): [Single Subject Exam](#)
5. Complete a [Single Subject Teacher Preparation Program](#)

Apply for Your Preliminary Teaching Credential and Become a California Teacher!

Typically, Cuesta College students who want to teach Biology at the Middle or High School level will complete the Associate Degree for Transfer, then a Bachelor's Degree in Biology, and finally, a Single Subject Credential program. You may also choose to take the EDUC 200 - Intro to the Teaching Profession class, which will examine topics related to teaching diverse learners in today's schools and provide the opportunity to observe and participate in a local public school setting.

AS-T in Biology

1. *By completing the **AS-T in Biology** at Cuesta you will finish all of your lower-division major and general education requirements, as well as, 1 of your credential requirements (an American Government course). In addition, you will be guaranteed admission to Biology or a "similar" major at a CSU campus and that only 60 additional units will be required after transfer to complete your BS degree. Nineteen CSU campuses accept Cuesta's AS-T in Biology as sufficient transfer preparation. Three impacted campuses may require that a small amount of additional coursework be completed prior to transfer (see your counselor about specific requirements).*

BS degree in Biology

i By earning the **BS degree in Biology**, you will complete the upper division coursework that serves to meet the subject matter competency requirements for your credential program or prepare you to achieve a passing score on the California Subject Examination for Teachers (CSET) for Biology. Usually during your final year of the bachelor's degree program you would apply to Single Subject Teacher Preparation Program to complete your credential requirements.

8 CSU, 1 UC and 3 Independent California Institutions offer CTC approved Biology majors that meet the subject matter competency requirement for the single subject credential in Biology.

Single Subject Teacher Preparation Program

i A **Single Subject Teacher Preparation Program** will include coursework in areas such as teaching methodologies, curriculum development, and classroom management. It will also include student teaching in a local school classroom under the supervision of an experienced teacher and will help to develop the skills needed for teaching in a classroom.

- The Teacher Preparation Program will include a Teaching Literacy course for teaching English learners. You will learn to provide instruction for English language development and specially designed academic instruction within your subject area and grade level.
- During the Teacher Preparation Program, usually after you've completed a Teaching Literacy course, you'll take the Reading Instruction Competency Assessment (RICA).
- Most, if not all, of the other requirements for your Preliminary Teaching Credential are embedded in the AA-T/AS-T, BA/BS and Teacher Prep Programs.
- Upon completion of your Teacher Prep Program the California college or university will submit a formal recommendation to the CTC and you will complete the application process for your Preliminary Single Subject Teaching Credential!

If you'd like more information or have questions about the Middle or High School Teacher Pathway, the AA-T/AS-T degree requirements, or the transfer process to your BA/BS major, contact the Counseling Department 805-546-3138(SLO) or 805-591-6241(NCC).